

Minutes of Meeting held Monday, 9th January 2012 at 7.00 pm,
Parish Community Room, Monteith Close, West Auckland

Present: Cllr Charlton, Chairperson
Cllr E Farrer
Cllr P Fenwick
Cllr J Ferguson
Cllr C Mairs, vice Chair
Cllr V Raine
Cllr L Rielly
Cllr M Roberts
Cllr W Robinson
Cllr K Tweddle
PC Rob Simpson
John Raw, Crime Prevention Officer

12.01 TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were received from Cllr Bell, Cllr Turner

12.02 DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.

There were no declarations of interest expressed.

12.03 TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes were agreed to be a true account of the previous meeting and signed accordingly.

12.04 TO INVITE ANY COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

No members of the public were present.

12.05 TO RECEIVE POLICE REPORT

PC Rob Simpson attended the meeting. In addition to introducing himself he informed those present that an additional officer, Kimberley Marshall has also been appointed and also a second PCSO will be made available to work in the West Auckland area; this was welcome news.

John Raw attended the meeting and informed those present that the West Auckland Lakes estate won the Neighbourhood Watch Crime Prevention scheme award; the certificate will be kept in the Community Parish Rooms. The scheme has been running for 25 years and operates thanks to volunteers in the area. Thanks were given to John Raw for his commitment to his role.

Chairman's Signature..... Date.....

The problems with cars still parking around the village green and other various problems around the area were reported and PC Simpson took notes and promised to investigate and assist where he could.

12.06 CLERK’S TABLING OF CORRESPONDENCE/ENDORISING INVOICE CHEQUES.

CHEQUE No	DETAILS	AMOUNT	PREVIOUSLY AGREED
100345	BDM services-village green post installation-VOID	£135.00	Y
100346	Trevor Burns-village sign post	£48.30	Y
100347	Farmers market	£275.00	Y
100348	Replacement cheque for 100345	£135.00	Y
100349	PC Christmas meal	£255.00	Y
100350	Christmas hampers	£98.23	Y
100351	Fruit hampers	£30.00	Y
100352	Quality Status application	£120.00	Y

The Clerk tabled all correspondence received and cheques endorsed for invoices as detailed above. The buffet at the Memorial Hall has been cancelled due to the lack of interest. It was agreed that those who had expressed an interest will be offered a beverage, sandwich and cake at The Well to compensate their disappointment. ACTION: Clerk to provide vouchers.

12.07 TO RECEIVE FINANCE WORKING GROUP UPDATE.

i. To discuss purchase and siting of picnic tables

Cllr Roberts provided a plan of the village green highlighting where the most appropriate place for a picnic table would be. The plan was agreed by those present and will be submitted to DCC via Patricia Holding. ACTION: Clerk to write.

The possibility of also requesting permission to plant a permanent Christmas tree was discussed and it was agreed to make an initial request for this too; it was emphasised that this is an initial request for permission only at the moment and agreement to actually purchase a permanent Christmas tree has not yet been reached.

ii. To consider purchase of a generator

Following consideration of various options for purchasing a generator it was agreed that the Parish Council will purchase their own generator and festoon lights at a maximum of £200.00. ACTION: Cllr J Ferguson to pursue.

iii. To consider purchase of a permanent Christmas tree

Discussed on item 11.83i

iv. To discuss the possibilities for a skate park

The possibilities for a skate park were discussed and it was agreed to request that Angelina Maddison and Rob Yorke attend a site meeting to consider some options. ACTION: Clerk to arrange a meeting preferably on a Monday or Wednesday afternoon.

Chairman’s Signature..... Date.....

v. To consider tree planning programme

Cllr Roberts introduced a tree planting scheme for East Green to include 6 trees. Costings still need to be obtained for this. In the meantime, it was highlighted that the planted area at East Green car park does require re-planting to improve the area. ACTION: Clerk to write to Tamzin Harrison.

12.08 TO RECEIVE ENVIRONMENT/PLANNING WORKING GROUP UPDATE.

i To discuss Parish/Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Roberts will provide a Parish Plan summary article for the Winter Edition of West Life and a questionnaire will go into the Spring Edition to obtain residents' views on the content for a revised version.

ii To consider Parish Council premises

The premises review for Monteith Close Parish Rooms will conclude February 2012 at which time the Parish Council will be informed whether they could be considered for a Transfer of the Property or possible pepper corn rent tenancy of the Monteith Close Community Parish Room.

iii To receive update on the Nursery

It was advised that Pat Holding, DCC cannot consider progress with the request to register land at the Nursery as village green until mid-February 2012 due to other commitments.

iv To discuss cemetery improvements

Cllr Charlton and Cllr Roberts met with Ian McDonald to discuss the possibility of resuming improvements at the cemetery. Following the review of fences, etc being erected around some graves by family and friends of the deceased, DCC have decided that this will not be allowed in future but that those already existing will remain. The Parish Council were disgruntled at this decision and following discussion it was agreed to write to George Garlic with copy to Simon Henig highlighting concerns raised that they have allowed an amnesty for those who have already put fences, etc around graves. It is considered extremely divisive within the community as some families adhere to regulations and those that don't get away with it. It was suggested that those refusing to follow guidelines may wish to replicate what they have already done should another family member be buried there and the Parish Council question how DCC will challenge this. The Parish Council suggest that in future, as resources allow, those that maintain graves be persuaded to remove the fences to provide easier access for grass cutting, etc.

The Parish Council are keen to make improvements at the cemetery but feel that confirmation from DCC is required that those acting outside the specified guidelines for grave maintenance will be challenged and made to follow protocol. In the meantime it was agreed that the cemetery tap requires replacing with an insulated one to prevent freezing and that the Parish Council will arrange this. ACTION: Clerk to contact Darren Hardman.

Chairman's Signature..... Date.....

A tree planting programme at the cemetery was discussed along with possibly of DCC extending the path to provide a circular route. DCC have undertaken major tree surgery work at the cemetery. Planted areas around the Monkey Puzzle tree were discussed and the difficulties in growing some plants around the shade of the tree were taken into account. The Parish Council's improvement programme was placed on hold until the review of the fences around graves was carried out. Providing confirmation from DCC that the enforcement officer will act and appropriate procedures are in place to ensure policy is followed, the programme will re-commence.

v To discuss minor road at rear of Pant on village green

Item to be deferred.

Two footpaths, Oakley Beck and the Old Mill Race were discussed and Cllr Roberts provided an update on the possibility improving these paths. A request for s106 monies has been submitted to make these improvements. As this item was not on the agenda it will be discussed further at the next meeting.

12.10 TO DISCUSS ISSUES RAISED ON USE OF PARISH ROOMS

No items were received.

12.11 TO RECEIVE ITEMS FOR MONDAY, 6TH FEBRUARY 2012 MEETING

- Village Fayre/farmers' market
- Oakley Beck and Old Mill Race footpaths
- Land available for sale within area
- Bus routes via estates
- Skate park

Chairman's Signature..... Date.....